

CSCE NEWS RELEASE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

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Briefing on the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Announced

**For Immediate Release
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Washington, DC—The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in conjunction with the Congressional Research Service has announced a forthcoming briefing:

The Status of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)

Thursday, February 20

10:30 a.m. —12:00 noon

Room 216, Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC

Open to Members of Congress, Staff, the Public and Press

A Question and Answer period will follow the Presentation

Panelists will be:

R. James Woolsey, former Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Woolsey has previously served as: an advisor with the U.S. Delegation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I); a Program Analyst in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on the National Security Council Staff; General Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services; Under Secretary of the Navy; and as Ambassador and U.S. Representative to the negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). Mr. Woolsey is currently associated with the Washington, D.C. law firm of Shea & Gardner.

Michael Guhin, Deputy Assistant Director for Multilateral Affairs, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

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The Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe by law monitors and encourages progress in implementing the provisions of the Helsinki Accords. The Commission, created in 1976, is made up of nine Senators, nine Representatives and one official each from the Departments of State, Commerce and Defense. For more information about the Commission, please call (202) 225-1901.

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Stanley R. Sloan, Senior Specialist in International Security Policy, Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress. Mr. Sloan was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency from 1969-75, serving as NATO desk officer, European Community desk officer, member of the U.S. Delegation to the Negotiations on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions and as a Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Western Europe. Previous to this position Mr. Sloan served as Division Specialist in U.S. Alliance Relations, Specialist in European Affairs and head of the Europe/Middle East/Africa Section in the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division of CRS. During 1987-88 he was Study Director and Rapporteur for the North Atlantic Assembly's Presidential Committee on "NATO in the 1990s." Mr. Sloan has authored numerous journal articles and studies, and his books include NATO's Future: Beyond Collective Defense, NATO in the 1990s, Conventional Arms Control and Europe's Future, and NATO's Future: Toward a New Transatlantic Bargain.

Louis Fisher, Senior Specialist in separation of powers with the CRS where he has served since 1970. He also previously served as research director of the House Iran-Contra Committee. His books include President and Congress, Constitutional Conflicts Between Congress and the President, American Constitutional Law, Political Dynamics of Constitutional Law, and his textbook in constitutional law in two paperbacks: Constitutional Structures: Separation of Powers and Federalism and Constitutional Rights: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. His most recent book is Presidential War Power (1995).

CFE Background:

Negotiated within the framework of the Conference, now, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) was signed by the leaders of the member states of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization at the November 1990 OSCE Summit in Paris. The CFE, which entered into force in 1992, established ceilings for major conventional weapons and equipment systems: battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters. In addition to numerical limits, the treaty included a thorough notification and verification regime, including on-site inspection. Limits on the holdings of equipment in each of the four categories by signatory states in a zone stretching from the Atlantic-to-the-Urals and in geographic sub-zones, were to have been reached by November 16, 1995. Over 50,000 pieces of treaty-limited equipment were destroyed or converted to other uses during the 40-month reduction period established by the treaty, and verified by more than 2,000 on-site inspections.

Follow-up negotiations, known as CFE-1A talks, concluded in July 1992 with a political commitment by the signatories to limit the personnel strength of their conventional forces. The agreement effectively established a ceiling on personnel from these states within the zone of application. These numerical ceilings were not subject to negotiation among the participants. Stabilization measures requiring notification of significant increases in unit strength, call-up of reserves or resubordination of units, were also agreed.

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Problems in implementing the reduction of equipment called for under the treaty persisted past the November 1995 deadline. There was particular concern over Russia's failure to reduce its military border strength to levels, or so-called flank limitations, called for under the CFE Treaty. At the heart of the controversy was Moscow's insistence that it be allowed to maintain more weapons in the treaty flank areas, particularly in the North Caucasus region, than permitted. The issue took on increased significance and sensitivity following the large-scale military campaign against separatist elements in Chechnya launched by the Kremlin in December 1994, swelling Russian force levels in its southern flank significantly beyond CFE limits.

In May 1992, following the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Newly Independent States (NIS) had reached agreement in Tashkent on dividing the reduction obligations among themselves. Since 1994, Russia and Ukraine sought modifications of the treaty that would take into account the demise of the Warsaw Pact and the demise of the USSR. A compromise was struck with the Russian Federation in June 1996 freezing current level of Russian forces in the flank zone, requiring compliance with CFE limits by May 1999, and modifying the lines of the zones. In return, Russia agreed to accept additional inspections and provide more information on forces deployed in the flank and former flank areas.

The first CFE review conference of the 30 states party to the treaty convened in Vienna in May 1996, to assess implementation of treaty obligations. Considerable attention was focused on persistent problems in the NIS. Participants agreed to begin the process of adapting the treaty to the new security situation in Europe since the CFE Treaty was signed in 1990.

The December 1996 Lisbon OSCE summit called for adaptation negotiations on CFE to begin in January. At the December Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council, representatives of the 16 NATO countries reiterated their strong support for the CFE: "We believe that the CFE Treaty must continue to play a key role in ensuring military stability into the 21st century, and are committed to adapting it expeditiously in order to take account of new security challenges." Adaptation of the CFE Treaty is one of the concessions sought by Russia as the West presses ahead with plans to enlargement NATO, a development sharply opposed by Moscow.

Talks are currently underway in Vienna with the aim of strengthening the treaty's system of limitations, verification, and information exchange. The 1990 CFE Treaty and associated documents will remain fully in force pending the outcome of the Vienna negotiations.